

Rs. 5000/- p.m. are compulsorily covered under the EPF/Pension Schemes framed under the EPF & MP Act, 1952.

(b) The amount of pension under the EPS, 1995 is determined keeping in view pensionable salary and length of contributory service rendered by the employees subject to a minimum of Rs. 265/- p.m.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Under the EPS, 1995 there is a provision for valuation of Pension Fund, and review of Pensionary benefits on an annual basis. Accordingly, on completion of 1st annual valuation of the Pension Fund, an increase of 4% on Pension in payment was sanctioned to the beneficiaries with effect from 16.11.1996. On completion of 2nd Annual Valuation, an additional increase of 5.5% has been sanctioned w.e.f. 1.4.1998. The minimum amount of children pensions was enhanced from Rs. 115/- p.m. to Rs. 150/- p.m. and the minimum amount of orphan pension was enhanced from Rs. 170/- p.m. to Rs. 250/- p.m.

(e) The employees covered under the ESI Scheme, leaving insurable employment after completing five years and on attaining the age of superannuation are provided full medical care for themselves and their spouse on payment of nominal annual contribution as prescribed under the ESI Scheme.

Safety measures in mines

2946. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether an accident occurred recently in the Bagdigi Mines of the Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. which has resulted in a number of deaths; if so, the causes of such an accident;

(b) whether Government have reviewed the safety measures followed by the mines in the aftermath of this accident;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

[22 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir. After the Bagdigi Colliery accident which took place on 2.2.2001, the Ministry of Labour *vide* notification dated 1.3.2001 has constituted a Court of Inquiry under the Chairmanship of Sh. Justice Gurusharan Sharma, Judge High Court of Jharkhand to inquire into the causes and the circumstances attending the accident and to fix responsibility for the causes leading to the accident.

(b) to (d) While long term safety measures to be implemented in the mines in the aftermath of this accident can be taken up only after the Court of Inquiry submits its recommendation, for the present instructions to all Chief Executives of mining companies have been given to conduct check surveys of the maps and confirm their accuracy to ensure that proper precautions are taken and existing instructions are followed in all such mines which are adjacent to waterlogged workings.

Accidents in mines

2947. **SHRI C.O. POULOSE:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents that took place in public and private sector mines during the period 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and the number of casualties as a result thereof; and

(b) the compensation given to family members of the deceased and the injured mine workers during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The number of accidents and casualties